

County Executive
of
Howard County, Maryland

Executive Order: 2017-02
Dated: March 24, 2017
Subject: Human Trafficking Prevention
Coordinating Council

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2014, the County Council of Howard County passed Council Resolution No. 8-2014 that created a Human Trafficking Task Force in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force issued a report wherein they noted that “[h]uman trafficking is a complex global crime affecting nearly every developed and developing country in the world. It involves the exploitation of people for monetary or personal profit, and occurs in a range of both legal and illegal industries, including hospitality services, brothels, agriculture, street prostitution, construction, strip clubs, domestic services, manufacturing, spas, and escort services. At its core, human trafficking is about abuse and cruelty toward human beings, and is a gross violation of human rights”; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force recommended that its work be continued as an on-going task; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Section 902, the Task Force was temporary in nature and has expired; and

WHEREAS, while there have been significant recent arrests and prosecutions of offenders of human trafficking laws, the County Executive agrees that human trafficking remains a basic human rights violation; and

WHEREAS, the eradication of human trafficking poses significant challenges such as Howard County’s proximity to I-95, I-70, and high-volume rest stops; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Task Force’s recommendation, the County Executive wishes to continue the work of the Human Trafficking Task Force.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the County Executive of Howard County, Maryland that a Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council is established and charged with the following:

1. Reviewing and prioritizing the recommendations of the Human Trafficking Task Force Report of December 2014 including:
 - a. Establishing program partnerships to support victims of human trafficking,
 - b. Advancing public education efforts on Human Trafficking, and
 - c. Exploring funding to allow expansion and sustainability of resources to combat human trafficking.
2. Advising the County Executive on the effective methods and organizational structure to permanently coordinate and sustain human trafficking prevention efforts in the County.


AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Coordinating Council shall consist of the following members:

1. The Director of the Department of Community Resources and Services or the Director's designee, who shall serve as Chair;
2. The Administrator of the Office of Human Rights or the Administrator's designee;
3. The State's Attorney or the State's Attorney's designee;
4. The Chief of Police or the Chief's designee;
5. A representative from the Howard County Commission for Women;
6. The Director of the Department of Social Services or the Director's designee;
7. The Health Officer or the Health Officer's designee;
8. The Sheriff or the Sheriff's designee;
9. A representative from the Howard County Public School System;
10. Two representatives from the faith based community;
11. A representative from HoCo AGAST (Howard County Advocacy Group Against Slavery and Trafficking);
12. A representative from HopeWorks;
13. A representative from Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center;
14. A representative from the Howard County General Hospital;
15. Two representatives from the survivor community; and
16. Two representatives from the general public.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Coordinating Council shall present its findings and recommendations to the County Executive on or before July 1, 2018.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Coordinating Council shall cease to exist on September 1, 2018 and the terms of the Council members shall expire on September 1, 2018.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Allan Kittleman, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 24th day of March, 2017.


Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive

